

TTPP Hearing 30th October

Inger Perkins (personal)

I have been an advocate for the environment as long as I can remember, and I am here today to continue that role on behalf of those that are at risk – all species and their ecosystems including ours.

The climate crisis is clear from local and global reports - with more frequent and more intense storms as we have seen in Westport, Auckland and Hawke's Bay in recent times, marine heatwaves with sea surface temperatures around 6 degrees warmer than average for extended periods - as we saw here last summer, unprecedented and alarmingly low sea ice in Antarctica reported by NIWA and other scientists at the start of this month, and an early and intense cyclone just last week hitting Vanuatu.

Section 74 of the RMA (s74(2) (d) and (e)) requires the territorial authority to have regard to emissions reduction plans and adaptation plans, made in accordance with the Climate Change Response Act 2002, when preparing a district plan.

Our region is one of the higher emitters of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions per capita¹.

I believe we all need to take every opportunity to reduce the extraction and burning of fossil fuels and minimise methane emissions.

The creation of TTPP is an opportunity that must be seized to ensure that activity and development in our region will contribute to a significant reduction in carbon emissions.

Allowing the same or increased levels of emissions through this plan is unconscionable. The next decade will be critical and we need to get this right. There are many exciting new initiatives and technologies, particularly in terms of energy storage and agriculture, that will contribute to a lower carbon economy. TTPP could enable their development and deployment here.

The IPCC, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, has advised that immediate and unprecedented global efforts to mitigate greenhouse gases are required.

Last year, António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, said about the global warming that "Every fraction of a degree matters. Every voice can make a difference. And every second counts."

¹ <https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/greenhouse-gas-emissions-by-region-industry-and-household-year-ended-2022/>

Last month, he said that “humanity has opened the gates of hell” by unleashing worsening heatwaves, floods and wildfires seen around the world, and that a “dangerous and unstable” future of 2.8 degrees of global heating, compared with the pre-industrial era, was awaiting us, without radical action. “The future of humanity is in our hands,” he said. “We must turn up the tempo, turn plans into action and turn the tide.”

And that means us, it means you and it means now. And it needs to be radical.

There are multiple ways to achieve this through TTPP.

We need strong objectives that are enabling of emissions reductions, whether existing or new activities or new technologies, from residential and community scale and upwards, backed up by appropriate policies and rules.

I am asking that each one of you keep the climate crisis and your obligations in this regard in mind as you review and determine every single aspect of the new district plan ...

... for the sake of our West Coast community and future generations – perhaps your families’ children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren - as well as other communities beyond our region and their future, their future generations.

Now is the time to get this right.

Thank you.